

Structured Immersion/Newcomers' Program



The MSD of Pike Township is Making it Happen!



WE ARE The MSD of Pike Township serves 11,188 diverse students in the urban northwest quadrant of Indianapolis. Nine elementary, three middle, one high, and one alternative school have a multi-ethnic rate of **89%**, serving a minority-majority district with **67%** of students that qualify for the free and reduced lunch.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES are proud of a diverse student population with 85 different languages spoken and a graduation rate of 94%. English Language Learners make up 18% of the district's students.

OUR TEACHERS have been provided specific ELL professional development in Sheltering Instruction, the WIDA Framework, and the Six Standards of Effective Pedagogy.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE provides a structured English immersion classroom for students in 1st grade who are either new to the country or new to learning English in an academic environment. Some students may have completed kindergarten in one of our schools or another American school, but are in need of a classroom environment that provides more L1 supports and structured immersion into the English Language.

There are five 1st grade Structured Immersion/Newcomer's classrooms in the M.S.D. of Pike Township. Teachers in these classrooms are bilingual in Spanish and English and provide L1 supports (Spanish) as needed during the beginning of the school year and then less and as the year progresses. By the 2nd trimester, teachers use minimal Spanish during instruction and teach concepts, skills, and strategies in English a majority of the academic day.

OUR STEPS

The Structured Immersion/Newcomer's 1st grade teachers follow the district's scope and sequence for 1st grade curriculum and provide instruction of first grade content to students in a way that is more comprehensible while simultaneously building academic language in English. The students continue into traditional classes in grades 2-5 after a full year in the 1st grade Structured Immersion/Newcomer's classroom.

OUR RESULTS Students who participate in the 1st grade Structured immersion class usually grow at least one language proficiency level and get closer to meeting NWEA norms in reading and mathematics. In addition, the sense of community between the school and the families of the students participating in the Structured Immersion/Newcomer's classroom is tremendous. Families learn strategies to help their students beyond the school day and are great partners in students' educational program.

For more information about our school or corporation, email: *Tracy Swinton* at tlswinton@pike.k12.in.us or visit our district website at <http://www.pike.k12.in.us/Content/english-language-learners>.